

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A system for controlling locking/unlocking means of at least one openable panel of a vehicle, comprising:

vehicle transmission/reception means (3, 4, 5) carried by the vehicle, comprising vehicle memory means (7) comprising a vehicle circular shift register in which is stored a pseudo-random code;

vehicle transmission means (3, 6, 7) for transmitting an interrogation signal which carries the pseudo-random code; and

vehicle de-spreading means (6, 7, 8) for de-spreading a response signal received unless a pseudo-random code carried by the response signal is not synchronized

in substantial correlation with a corresponding pseudo-random code stored in the vehicle memory means (7) by a ^{distance associated with} shift less than required for an intermediate transmission means to intercept and retransmit a response signal, and for verifying whether the received signal carries a signature of a user transmission means; and

user transmission/reception means (9, 10, 11) intended to be carried by a user for transmitting the response signal for controlling unlocking actuation of the operable panel, comprising

user memory means comprising a user circular shift register (13) in which is stored the pseudo-random code;

user de-spreading means (12, 13, 14) for de-spreading the transmission signal received unless the pseudo-random code carried by the interrogation signal is not synchronized in substantial correlation with ~~the~~ a corresponding pseudo-random code stored in the user memory means (13) by a shift less than required for an intermediate transmission means to intercept and retransmit the interrogation signal; and

the user transmission means (9, 12, 13, 14) for transmitting the response signal which carries the pseudo-random code and the signature which is specific to the user transmission/reception means.

13. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein:
the interrogation signal transmitted by the vehicle transmission/reception means comprises a key code; and
the response signal transmitted by the user transmission/reception means comprises a secret code determined by the user transmission/reception means as a function of the key code.

14. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13, wherein the vehicle transmission/reception means further comprise a mixing means for mixing the key code with the pseudo-random code carried by the interrogation signal.

15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13, wherein the user transmission/reception means further comprise mixing means for mixing the secret code with the pseudo-random code carried by the response signal.

16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the key code and the secret code comprise the pseudo-random code of the interrogation signal or the response signal.

17. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the signature consists of the pseudo-random code of the response signal.

18. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the system comprises means for synchronizing the vehicle memory means and the user memory means prior to transmission of the interrogation signal.

19. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 18, wherein:
the pseudo-random code comprises a post-synchronization pseudo-random code;
the user transmission/reception means transmits a pre-synchronization pseudo-random code upon activation of the user transmission/reception means; and
the vehicle transmission/reception means comprise means for self-synchronizing with the pre-synchronization pseudo-random code transmitted by the user transmission/reception means.

20. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 19, wherein the pre-synchronization pseudo-random code is shorter than the post-synchronization pseudo-random code.

21. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 20, wherein the post-synchronization pseudo-random code comprises 127-bit codes.

22. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the interrogation signals and response signals comprise RF signals modulated by a two-phase NRZ modulation.

23. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the vehicle is an automobile.

24. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the shift comprises less than one half of a bit period with respect to the code of the user circular shift register.